

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE
EASTERN DIVISION

JOHNNY POLK,

Plaintiff,

v.

No. 14-1318

MATTHEW BOURLAKAS,

Defendant.

ORDER DENYING REQUEST FOR REPRESENTATION, ADOPTING REPORT AND
RECOMMENDATION, DISMISSING CASE, CERTIFYING AN APPEAL WOULD NOT BE
TAKEN IN GOOD FAITH AND DENYING LEAVE TO APPEAL *IN FORMA PAUPERIS*

The Plaintiff, Johnny Polk, brought this *pro se* action on November 26, 2014 against the Defendant, Matthew Bourlakas, for violations of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 2000e, *et seq.* (Docket Entry (“D.E.”) 1.) Plaintiff filed amended complaints on December 4 and 5, 2014, raising the same claims.¹ (D.E. 6–7.)

In a report and recommendation entered April 20, 2015, United States Magistrate Judge Edward G. Bryant recommended that the second amended complaint be dismissed *sua sponte* for failure to state a claim pursuant to Rule 12(b)(6) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. (D.E. 13.) According to the docket, Plaintiff has not submitted objections, and the time for doing so has expired. Therefore, the report and recommendation is ADOPTED and this matter is DISMISSED pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B)(ii).

¹ On May 7, 2015, Polk submitted a “Request for Representation” pursuant to the district’s Civil Pro Bono Plan (“the plan”). See Local Rule 83.7 for the United States District Court for the Western District of Tennessee (“Local Rules”). Under the plan, “[a] party appearing pro se may make an application for appointment of counsel at anytime during the course of the litigation.” The appointment of counsel “shall be at the discretion of the presiding judge pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(d).” The Court DENIES Plaintiff’s request as unnecessary because Magistrate Judge Bryant has determined that the complaint fails to state claim for relief. The appointment of counsel would not remedy that deficiency.

The Court must also consider whether Plaintiff should be allowed to appeal this decision *in forma pauperis*, should he seek to do so. Pursuant to the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure, a non-prisoner desiring to proceed on appeal *in forma pauperis* must obtain pauper status under Fed. R. App. P. 24(a). See *Callihan v. Schneider*, 178 F.3d 800, 803–04 (6th Cir. 1999). Rule 24(a) provides that, if a party was permitted to proceed *in forma pauperis* in the district court,² he may also proceed on appeal *in forma pauperis* without further authorization unless the district court “certifies that the appeal is not taken in good faith or finds that the party is not otherwise entitled to proceed *in forma pauperis*.” Fed. R. App. P. 24(a)(3)(A). If the district court denies pauper status, the party may file a motion to proceed *in forma pauperis* in the Court of Appeals. Fed. R. App. P. 24(a)(4)–(5).

The good faith standard is an objective one. *Coppedge v. United States*, 369 U.S. 438, 445 (1962). The test for whether an appeal is taken in good faith is whether the litigant seeks appellate review of any issue that is not frivolous. *Id.* It would be inconsistent for a district court to determine that a complaint should be dismissed prior to service on a defendant, but has sufficient merit to support an appeal *in forma pauperis*. See *Williams v. Kullman*, 722 F.2d 1048, 1050 n.1 (2d Cir. 1983). The same considerations that lead the Court to dismiss this case also compel the conclusion that an appeal would not be taken in good faith.

It is CERTIFIED, pursuant to Rule 24(a), that any appeal in this matter by Plaintiff would not be taken in good faith. Leave to proceed on appeal *in forma pauperis* is, therefore, DENIED. Accordingly, if Plaintiff files a notice of appeal, he must also pay the full appellate filing fee or

²Such permission was granted in this case on December 30, 2014. (D.E. 11.)

file a motion to proceed *in forma pauperis* and supporting affidavit in the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals.³

The Clerk of Court is DIRECTED to prepare a judgment.

IT IS SO ORDERED this 11th day of May, 2015.

s/ J. DANIEL BREEN
CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

³Pursuant to Fed. R. App. P. 3(a), any notice of appeal should be filed in this Court. A motion to appeal *in forma pauperis* then should be filed directly in the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. Unless he is specifically instructed to do so, Plaintiff should not send to this Court copies of motions intended for filing in the Sixth Circuit.